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abstract analysis. The general conclusions are indeed in some cases surprisingly like those of the "little text-books" of which Mr. Higgs speaks with deserved scorn, *e. g.*, that the *Wealth of Nations* "sapped the scientific basis" (p. 58) whereon Physiocracy reposed.

The book is divided into six chapters: Rise of the School; The School and its Doctrines (2); Activities of the School; Opponents of the School; and Influence of the School. Each of these chapters is a bundle of brief biographies, with all the proper bibliographical information concerning the writings of the several writers, and a list of the contents of the more important of them. As may be supposed, therefore, the enterprising reader who should attempt to read through the book at one or two sittings will not escape altogether from the *ennui* which has dogged the "Economists" from the first; but to those who, knowing something of the subject already, will use the book as a dictionary it will be found exceedingly convenient. A few points of detail may perhaps be noticed. To say that Turgot "shared many of their ideas" (p. 4) is not a felicitous way of expressing the fact that he was in fundamental agreement with them. The "economic woes of the ancien régime" do not lose in the telling (pp. 5-11): Mr. Higgs is possibly a little too ready to give entire credence to Physiocratic lamentations; and it is making too much even of Quesnay to convert him into "competent judges." The mention of "entrepreneur" by Quesnay in 1757 is hardly a "noteworthy early use of an economic term;" it was in common use long before; *e. g.*, it was applied to Riquet by Vauban in 1691 (Clément, *Colbert*, II. 125). The verbs "to maximise" (p. 52) and "to opine" (as Mr. Higgs uses it, p. 43) can scarcely be recommended for imitation. As to the maxim *Laissez faire*, attention may be called to Colbert's language in 1669: "Il faut *laisser faire* les hommes qui s'appliquent sans peine à ce qui convient le mieux; c'est ce qui apporte le plus d'avantage" (cited, after Wolowski, by Levasseur, *Classes Ouvrières*, II. 193). But precisely similar language might be cited from writers, both French and English, whom one would have to call mercantilists. They did not indeed draw such sweeping conclusions from the maxim as writers of a later age; but the use of such language harmonizes with the fact to which commentators on the Physiocrats and on Adam Smith seldom call attention, that the way of the later "free trader" was not altogether unprepared for him. Finally it may be urged that "a statement of Locke that all taxes fall ultimately upon land" is a somewhat slighting way of referring to Locke's carefully drawn-out argument, which clearly anticipated (if it did not suggest) the assumptions and deductive reasoning by which the Physiocrats arrived at the same conclusion.

W. J. ASHLEY.

*The Autobiographies of Edward Gibbon.* Printed verbatim from hitherto unpublished MSS., with an introduction by the Earl of Sheffield. Edited by JOHN MURRAY. (London: John Murray. 1897. Pp. xiv, 435.)

*Private Letters of Edward Gibbon* (1753-1794). With an introduction by the Earl of Sheffield. Edited by ROWLAND E. PROTHERO. (London: John Murray. 1897. Two vols. Pp. xii, 400, 430.)

THE first Lord Sheffield, in the preface to his edition of Gibbon's *Miscellaneous Works* in 1795, briefly described the six sketches of his life which Gibbon left, and announced that "from all of them the following Memoirs have been carefully selected and put together." So skillfully was this done that the resulting narrative, notwithstanding this avowal, came to be regarded as Gibbon's work as it stands, so that when, two years ago, the six manuscripts were thrown open to the public view and the composite character of the received text of the autobiography was revealed, that revelation was hailed as an important literary discovery. This popular idea even finds a place in the preface of the present Lord Sheffield, who says that the autobiography "is now proved to be in no sense the simple work of that illustrious pen, but to have been dexterously pieced together out of seven fragmentary sketches and adapted into a single and coherent narrative." As the first Lord Sheffield's preface is not reprinted, this passage and two or three others of like character will perpetuate a misconception which is unjust to the first Lord Sheffield.

Mr. Murray has published the six texts under the titles of A, B, C, D, E and F in the following order: F, B, C, D, E, A and D, but without explaining the significance of the names or of the arrangement. The alphabetical succession denotes the supposed order of composition, and the order in which the texts are printed indicates in general the order in which the manuscripts were used as the basis of the received text. As neither Mr. Murray nor Mr. Frederic Harrison has shown precisely how the compilation was made it will not be out of place to do so here.

The received text in the Smith-Milman edition of the *Decline and Fall*, as published by Harper and Brothers, occupies pp. 44-205 of Vol. I., and will be cited as R. T., *i. e.*, "Received Text." R. T. opens, p. 44, with a paragraph from A, p. 354; pp. 45-46 are made up from memoranda on pp. 417-419 combined with A, p. 355; p. 47 is from B, pp. 104-105. Then, from p. 48 to p. 94 F is incorporated, with occasional omissions, from its beginning, p. 1, to the end, p. 95. The only interpolations in this long section are slight ones on pp. 60 and 70 from B, pp. 105 and 116. At the end of F, which is mainly a rewritten and expanded version of B, the compiler resorted to B, and R. T., pp. 95 to 147, is derived from B, pp. 130-210 (end of B) with the insertion of about six pages from C in five different places. R. T., pp. 147-167, is from C, pp. 265-292 (the end of C), with the omission of two pages, 289-291. R. T., p. 168 to the end, p. 205, is from E, pp. 306-349 (the end of E), with Gibbon's foot-notes largely incorporated in the text. The received text, then, is based on F, B, C and E, used in that order, each as far as it goes. There is on pp. 167-168 of R. T. a pas-

sage of 21 lines, which is intimately connected with the context, but which is not in E nor any of the other texts. One is forced to the conclusion that a page of MS. of E has either been lost or omitted in printing. The passage is an important one and its omission from this complete edition is much to be regretted.

It will be seen from this analysis of the composition of the received text that the amount of new matter to be found in this volume is not very great, if we except the long genealogical introduction to A; and that most of the omissions were simply variants of what was included. Yet in that sifting process many a characteristic touch disappeared. By the restoration of these the outline of the portrait is softened and there is a distinct gain of naturalness and humanity.

The same is true in much greater degree of the edition of the letters. Lord Sheffield certainly culled the most interesting parts of the correspondence for publication in 1795. Much that he omitted was truly described by Gibbon as "a vexatious repetition of losses, of disappointments, of sales, etc." But with this knowledge of Gibbon's pecuniary trials we have also recovered a good deal that is of interest about Gibbon's first residence in Switzerland, his travels, his parliamentary career, and his later life at Lausanne in the opening years of the French Revolution. There is less about his studies than one would expect. The new letters reveal one secret, however, that will strike the world with surprise, and that is that Gibbon authorized his proposed French translator to "Bowdlerize" the famous chapters on the rise of Christianity. He writes to M. Suard, November 8, 1776: "Je ne craindrois pas de vous confier les droits les plus étendues pour changer et même pour supprimer tout ce qui vous paraîtroit le plus propre à blesser la délicatesse de votre église et de votre police. J'irais moi-même au devant de leurs scrupules et . . . je vous aiderois à enlever toutes les pierres d'achoppement," I. 293. Another translator, however, had already undertaken the work, and apparently these chapters were published in their integrity, but the Rev. Thomas Bowdler came nearer than he imagined to having the author's example to guide him in the preparation of his *Family Gibbon*.

Gibbon's service in Parliament covered the period of the American Revolution, and during the latter part of the time he was a member of the Board of Trade. The complete correspondence of these years sets his political career in a much better light than did the selections published by Lord Sheffield. We find that Gibbon made a serious attempt to inform himself on the American question, and that he really appreciated the importance of the crisis. Mr. Cotter Morison, relying on the fragmentary letters, has depicted Gibbon's parliamentary career much too unfavorably.

The editing of the volume of autobiographies leaves much to be desired. The absence of any adequate critical introduction has already been noticed, as well as the failure to remark upon the loss of nearly a page. Mr. Murray incloses omitted passages in brackets, but, obviously, this is impracticable where there are parallel narratives. He should have

enclosed in full-faced brackets all passages that Lord Sheffield inserted and in thin-faced brackets the parallel passages in the other narratives, and then provided marginal cross-references. Mr. Murray's method is less precise and he has failed to carry it out correctly; *e. g.*, compare p. 355 with R. T., p. 45. Again, a passage in F, p. 37, is not bracketed, while the earlier version, B. 156, is in brackets; but neither of them is in R. T., p. 63.

Mr. Prothero's management of the text is to be commended, and both editors have added useful notes in explanation of the literary references which would puzzle the modern reader.

EDWARD GAYLORD BOURNE.

*Governments and Parties in Continental Europe.* By A. LAWRENCE LOWELL. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1896. Two vols., pp. viii, 376; viii, 455.)

THIS book contains an account of the origin of the existing constitutions of the five states of France, Italy, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Switzerland; a description of the present government in each state, with a pretty full account of the local governments as well as the general governments; a brief history of the political parties in each state and a description of their present organization. Even as a mere summary of useful information conveniently arranged the work has a high degree of merit. The real object of the author, however, is not a compilation of useful information; it is rather an original study of the actual politics of the day. The history and description are subordinate to the illustration of present political life. The author has in view both English and American readers. There is a frequent reference to English and American politics and a constant comparison of Anglo-Saxon and Continental institutions.

The author appears at his best in seizing upon and setting forth the characteristic features of the different states. In France there has grown up a system of centralized administration which holds together in spite of revolution. In a negative way the administrative system is a cause of revolution. Once this system is in the hands of a party in the state, the opposing party can again secure a share in the government only by recapturing the administrative machinery, that is, by a revolution. In Italy the Liberators, who at the time of the revolution of 1861 were strongly republican in their political convictions, became faithfully devoted to the support of the monarchy; while in France believers in monarchy were induced to support the Republic. Those, however, in France who remain open enemies of the Republic take an active part in politics; they hold seats in Parliament, and appear so formidable as to compel men of widely divergent political opinions to act together. In Italy, on the other hand, the papal party hold aloof from national politics, do not vote or hold office. The liberals therefore have a free hand in the national legislature, and the result is that, not being confronted by their enemies, they break up into small groups, or into formidable factions.